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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OPIUM DEPARTMENT

OF THE

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

FOR THE

REVENUE YEAR 1898-99

WITH

APPENDIX.

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From

JOHN POLLEN, Esquire, I.C.S., LL.D.,
Acting Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium, and Abkári,
Bombay;

To

The Honourable
Mr. J. W. P. MUIR-MACKENZIE, I.C.S., M.R.A.C.,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department, Bombay.

Camp Igatpuri, 19th December 1899.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the administration of the Opium Department of the Bombay Presidency for the revenue year 1898-99 ending 31st July 1899. INTRODUCTION.

2. Mr. R. M. Kennedy was in charge of the Department from the 1st August to the 2nd December 1898, and I held it from the 3rd December 1898 till the end of the year. Changes in personnel.

3. The bulk of the opium imported into Bombay is grown and manufactured in Native States in Málwa and Rajputána. For its weighment, for the issue of necessary passes, and for the recovery of pass-fees, Government have established scales and maintain offices at Ahmedabad in Gujarát, and at Indore, Ujjain, Rutlam, Dhar, Jaora, Ajmir, Mándesar, Bhopál, and Chitor in Central India, and Rajputána. Opium passed at the Government scales is packed in chests containing 140¼ lbs., or in half-chests containing 70⅛ lbs. avoirdupois. ADMINISTRATION.

4. Throughout the Presidency of Bombay the manufacture of opium is prohibited, and the importation of opium from Málwa is restricted to certain specified routes. All consignments of opium imported into the Presidency are on arrival subjected to examination, and the transport of opium from place to place is permitted only under official passes. The wholesale trade in the drug is entirely separated from the retail trade.

5. The pass-fee or duty payable on exports from the Agencies in Málwa to places in the Bombay Presidency is levied at the scales in the form of *hundis*, that is, bills of exchange drawn on Bombay and payable at six days' sight. The hundis must be cashed before the consignee can obtain delivery of the opium. At the Ajmir Agency the duty is paid in cash or by hundi payable at sight drawn on Bombay; at Ahmedabad only cash or hundis payable at sight at the Bank of Bombay are accepted.

6. The system under which the opium farms have been managed has been the same as in the previous year. That is, except in the districts of Bijápur, Belgaum, Dhárwár, Kánara, Ratnágiri, Sátára, Thána and Kolába, the Settlement of Aden and the Cantonment of Baroda, the farmers have been required to pay only the duty on the opium bought by them for sale together with contributions for establishment charges. No license fees were levied for the privilege of sale except from the farmer of the town and island of Bombay. In the five southern districts of Bijápur, Belgaum, Dhárwár, Kánara and Ratnágiri, in the Settlement of Aden and in the Baroda Cantonment, which consume very little opium, the old license-fee system was retained. This system, which was also introduced, as an experimental measure, into the districts of Sátára, Thána, and Kolába, with effect from the 1st August 1896, with a limitation of retail selling prices, was continued in these districts during the year under report. These three districts were previously managed under the selection system.

7. Agreements are in force with all Native Chiefs in the Presidency to secure their co-operation in stopping the contraband traffic in opium. Under these agreements—

(1) The cultivation of the poppy has been prohibited in all Native States except Baroda.

(2) Baroda is permitted to grow the poppy and to manufacture opium under a State monopoly for consumption in its own territory and for export to China. The State has undertaken to assimilate its opium retail system and selling prices to those for the time being in force in adjoining British districts, and to prevent the introduction of Baroda opium into British territory and into the territories of adjoining Native States.

(3) All other Native States are required to supply themselves with opium for domestic consumption either from some British depôt by purchase wholesale in the Bombay market, or by direct importation from Málwa under regular passes, and to retail it to their subjects at prices not lower than the retail prices for the time being in force in British districts.

(4) All Native Chiefs are bound to exert themselves to prevent the introduction of untaxed opium into their territories.

(5) In return for the obligations undertaken, the States are guaranteed the enjoyment of the privileges enumerated below, so long as they faithfully carry out their agreements.

8. Baroda enjoys the whole of the revenue derivable under its State monopoly, and is, besides, allowed to import from Málwa, free of duty, whatever quantity of Málwa opium may be wanted for its home consumption. Cambay, Pálanpur, the Mahi Kántha and the Rewa Kántha States are allowed a remission of the whole of the British duty levied on opium consumed within their limits; Kutch and Kathiáwár are allowed a similar remission to the extent of one-third; the Sátára Jághirdárs (including the Bhor State, since transferred to the Poona Political Agency, and the Jath and Daflápur States, since transferred to the Kolhápur Political Agency) of one-tenth; and all other States of one-fifth of the duty. Special compensation has also been granted in all cases in which any loss of the opium revenue formerly enjoyed by Chiefs was found to have been caused by the arrangements.

9. The subjoined statement shows the amounts of compensation paid annually for loss of opium revenue formerly enjoyed by the Chiefs referred to—

Names of Native States.	Amount of annual compensation.	Government Resolution sanctioning the Amount.
	Rs.	
Pálanpur	31,500	No. 2151—51 Confl., dated 1st April 1882, Revenue Department, and No. 7122, dated 11th November 1892, Political Department.
Mahi Kántha —		
I'dar, including Posina Putta	4,896	No. 180—7 Confl., dated 11th January 1881, Revenue Department; No. 1138-26 Confl., dated 24th February 1881, Revenue Department; and No. 778, dated 1st March 1881, Financial Department.
	1,050	
Kheroj	40	
Tintoi	60	
Cross Road Rudardi ...	46	
Jadicha Putta	90	
Moti Mori Meghráj ...	40	
Mágori	50	
Amliyára	190	No. 1368-34 Confl., dated 8th March 1881, Revenue Department, and No. 928, dated 11th March 1881, Financial Department.
Sáthumba	64	
Ranásan	75	
Bolundra	27	
Katosan	600	
Total ...	7,228	

Names of Native States—*continued.*	Amount of annual compensation.	Government Resolution sanctioning the Amount.
	Rs.	
Rewa Kántha—		
Rájpipla	500	
Báriya	500	
Lúnáváda	750	
Sunth	150	
Bálásinor	50	
Chhota Udepur	2,808	
Kadána	25	No. 179—6 Confl., dated 11th January 1881, Revenue Department.
Sanjeli	75	
Thákor of Nasvádi... ...	184	No. 778, dated 1st March 1881, Financial Department.
Do. of Vijiria	100	
Do. of Vasanvirpur ...	85	No. 2675, dated 24th April 1882, Revenue Department.
Do. of Gad	325	
Do. of Agar	74	No. 3658—171 Confl., dated 26th September 1882, Financial Department.
Do. of Sindhiápur ...	79	
Do. of Vanmála ...	39	
Do. of Pálásni	63	
Do. of Cháliar	250	
Do. of Sihora	1,000	
Do. of Poicha	60	
Do. of Raeka	20	
Total ...	7,137	
Grand Total ...	45,865	

Pass Fees.

10. During the year the duty on opium intended for export by sea from the Port of Bombay to China and other foreign countries continued to be Rs. 525 per chest for opium passed at the Ajmir scales, and Rs. 500 elsewhere. The duty on opium imported for local consumption in the Bombay Presidency remained at Rs. 725 and Rs. 700 a chest, passed, respectively, at the Ajmir scales and elsewhere.

Government Issue Rate.

11. The rate for opium issued from the Government depôts was Rs. 10-8-0 per lb. in all districts, except Sindh and Aden, Ahmedabad, Kaira, the Panch Mahâls, Broach and Surat, and the depôts at Rájkot, Pálanpur, Sádra and Baroda Cantonment, where it was Rs. 11.

OPIUM IMPORTS.

STATISTICS.

Exports from Scales.

12. The following statement shows the number of chests weighed and passed at the scales for export to different parts of India, and the amount of duty levied thereon during the year under report and the previous year :—

For Export to	1897-98.		1898-99.	
	Chests.	Duty.	Chests.	Duty.
		Rs.		Rs.
Madras Presidency	521½	3,65,050	496½	3,47,550
Nizám's Territory	210	1,47,000	271½	1,90,050
Do. (Duty-free) ...	55	...	...	...
Hyderabad Assigned Districts ...	174	1,21,800	218	1,52,600
Mysore (Duty-free)	25	...	20	...
Coorg (do.)	½	...	½	...
Bombay Presidency	18,165	94,34,550	30,731½	1,54,43,150
Do. (Duty-free) ...	141½	...	121½	...
Total ...	19,292½	1,00,68,400	31,859½	1,61,33,350

OPIUM IMPORTS.

STATISTICS.

Exports to places outside the Presidency.

13. During the year under report the exports to other Presidencies and States outside the Bombay Presidency were 1,006½ chests (986 duty-paid and 20½ duty-free) and the duty collections were Rs. 6,90,200, showing a net increase of 20½ chests and Rs. 56,350 duty compared with the previous year. Of the duty-paid exports, the Madras Presidency shows a decrease of 25 in the number of chests exported and Rs. 17,500 in the amount of duty realized; whereas the Nizám's territory and the Hyderabad Assigned Districts show an increase, respectively, of 61½ and 44 chests with a corresponding increase of Rs. 43,050 and Rs. 30,800 in duty collections. The duty-free exports fell off from 80½ to 20½ chests, there being no such exports during the year to the Nizám's territory, against 55 chests exported there in the previous year, and 5 chests being less exported to Mysore.

Exports from Agencies to Bombay and other places in the Presidency.

14. The exports from the Agencies to Bombay and other places in the Presidency, on payment of duty, were 30,731½ chests as against 18,165 chests in the previous year, that is an increase of 12,566½ chests. This increase is chiefly due to the failure of crops in China. The duty-free exports for consumption in Native States entitled to full remission were 121½ chests against 141½ chests in the previous year.

Exports from Málwa and other Agencies.

15. There was an increase amounting to 12,546½ chests in the exports (duty-paid and duty-free) from all the Agencies in Málwa during the year under report as compared with the previous year. Indore shows an increase of 3,225½ chests, Ujjain of 3,054½ chests, Chitor of 1,381 chests, and Rutlám, Dhar, Jaora, Bhopál, Mandesar and Ahmedabad of 1,138, 614, 424½, 656½, 1,751 and 301½ chests, respectively. As has been the case for some years past there were no exports from the Ajmir Agency during the year under report.

Opium passed from Ahmedabad Scales.

16. The number of chests of Dungarpur opium brought to the Ahmedabad scales on payment of duty during the year under report was 23 compared with 17 in the previous year, an increase of 6 chests, and the imports of duty-free opium fell from 11 to 8 chests. 298½ chests of Baroda-grown opium were brought to the Ahmedabad scales during the year under report for export to China against none in the previous year. It is reported, however, that this opium has not been favourably received in the China market.

Exports at different rates of Duty.

17. The following table shows for the year under report the exports at the different rates of duty from the scales to places in the Bombay Presidency compared with the previous year, and the duty paid thereon :—

Rate of Duty per Chest.	1897-98.		1898-99.	
	Chests.	Duty.	Chests.	Duty.
		Rs.		Rs.
Rs. 700	365½	2,55,850	387	2,70,900
„ 600	2,789½	16,73,700	.....	.....
„ 500	15,010	75,05,000	30,344½	1,51,72,250
Total ...	18,165	94,34,550	30,731½	1,54,43,150

Actual Imports into Bombay and actual Duty Realizations.

18. The actual imports into the Presidency of duty-paid opium were 30,766½ chests, and the duty actually realized by encashment of hundis and brought to account in the year under report was Rs. 1,54,36,650. These figures, which differ from those in the preceding paragraph, have been arrived at in the following manner :—

OPIUM IMPORTS.

STATISTICS.

Actual Imports into Bombay and actual Duty Realizations.

	Chests.	Duty. Rs.
Chests passed and Duty levied at the scales in 1898-99.	30,731½	1,54,43,150
Deduct—(1) Chests lost on the way	...	...
(2) Number which had not arrived in Bombay before the close of the year, including—		
(*a*) Chests on which Duty was realized within the year	58½	...
(*b*) Chests on which Duty was not realized within the year ...	41	20,700
	30,632	1,54,22,450
Add—Chests passed at the scales in 1897-98 which arrived in Bombay in 1898-99, including—		
(*a*) Chests on which Duty was realized in 1897-98	107½	...
(*b*) Chests on which Duty was realized in 1898-99	27	14,200
	30,766½	1,54,36,650

19. The transactions detailed in the two preceding paragraphs for the year under report are summarized and contrasted below with similar figures for the two previous years, and with annual averages for the three years ending 1892-93 and for the three years ending 1895-96. The differential duty on opium sold in Bombay for home consumption for the periods in question is also shown:—

Year.	Chests cleared and Duty levied at the Scales.			Chests arrived and Duty realized in Bombay.				
	Number of Chests.		Amount of Duty levied.	Number of Chests.		Duty realized.	Differential Duty realized.	Total Duty realized.
	Duty-paid.	Duty-free.		Duty-paid	Duty-free.			
			Rs.			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Average for the three years ending 1892-93.	29,421	220	1,76,79,583	29,194	220	1,75,39,433	1,23,615	1,76,63,049
Do. do. 1895-96.	29,334	145	1,82,82,367	29,279	145	1,82,83,967	91,483	1,83,75,450
In 1896-97	23,474½	141½	1,41,18,500	23,620½	141½	1,44,68,200	1,08,600	1,45,76,800
In 1897-98	18,165	141½	94,34,550	18,756½	141½	94,91,550	1,60,950	96,52,500
In 1898-99	30,731½	121½	1,54,43,150	30,766½	121½	1,54,36,650	2,14,500	1,56,51,150

20. The actual arrivals in the Bombay Presidency during the year under report, including duty-free imports, were 30,888 chests, or 11,990 chests more than in the previous year, while the increase in the duty collections was Rs. 59,98,650. This increase is due to the abnormally low exports to China in 1897-98, and to the failure of the opium crop in some of the Provinces of that country.

Imports by Native States and Farmers of British Districts under Duty-paid and Duty-free Passes.

21. Of the 30,888 chests imported, 30,377 chests were brought and lodged in the Bombay Opium Warehouse. The remaining 511 chests, which include 121½ chests imported free of duty by Native States, and 389½ chests imported for home consumption on payment of duty at Rs. 700 per chest, by opium farmers in the British Districts and in Native States entitled to full or partial remission of duty, were conveyed direct to their destinations as noted below:—

	Duty-paid Chests.		Duty-free Chests.
Sachin	1		
Rewa Kántha	10½	Pálanpur	63
Káthiáwár	191	Mahi Kántha	26
Panch Maháls	23	Rewa Kántha	27½
Surat	23	Cambay	5
Khándesh	95		
Sholápur	41		
Ahmednágar	5		
Total ...	389½	Total ...	121½

OPIUM IMPORTS.

STATISTICS.

Bombay Central Warehouse Accounts.

22. The Bombay Opium Warehouse account for the year under report stood as under:—

	Chests.
Book balance on 31st July 1898	1,479
Deduct—Deficiency discovered on stock being taken at the end of the year 1897-98	18½
Actual stock on 1st August 1898	1,460½
Imported during the year under report	30,377
Returned from Godhra (Panch Máhals)	½
	31,838
Exported to China	29,891
Do. to Zanzibár and other African ports	23
Do. to Cochin and Allepey	74
Do. to Hyderabad Assigned Districts	3
	29,991

Sold for home consumption—	Chests.	Chests.	
(*a*) Daman (Portuguese Territory)	½		
(*b*) To Native States—			
Dharampor	1		
Bhor	2		
Cutch	85½		
Káthiáwár	62		
Cambay	13		
Bánsda	½		
		164	
(*c*) To the Licensed Opium Vendors of—			
Bombay	99½		
Ahmedabad	114		
Kaira	59		
Broach	41		
Násik	35		
Ahmednagar	50		
Poona	58		
Sholápur	8		
		464½	
(*d*) To Government for supply of Depôts		443½	
			1,072½
Total disposed of ...			31,063½
Book balance on 31st July 1899			774½
			31,838

23. The balance of opium actually found in the warehouse at the end of the year under report was 748¼ chests, or 26¼ chests short of the book balance shown in the preceding paragraph. This deficiency would appear at first sight to be proportionally greater than that found in 1897-98 when it amounted to 18½ chests, but this is really not so. The rate of shortage in the year under report on 31,838 chests lodged in the warehouse was only 4 tolas 109 grs. per chest against 5 tolas 83 grs. per chest in the previous year on 19,172½ chests deposited there in that year. This is satisfactory, especially as nearly half the number of chests warehoused in 1898-99 contained new opium on which exceptional loss by dryage occurs. The improvement is chiefly due to the increased vigilance now being exercised to prevent pilfering of opium from the warehouse. With my predecessor Mr. Kennedy I should like to see more detailed and accurate weighments at the Málwa scales insisted on, but no orders have yet been received from Government on this point.

DISTRIBUTION.

EXPORTS TO CHINA.

24. The exports to China during each of the past ten years are shown in the margin. Those for the year under report were more by 13,215 chests than in the previous year, by 7,601½ chests than in 1896-97, and by 2,575 chests than the average of the five years ending 1895-96. The large increase is attributable partly to the failure of the opium crop in some of the provinces of China and partly to the reduction in the rate of export duty effected from 27th October 1897. There are, however, no indications that the cultivation of the poppy in China is in any way decreasing and the rise in exports will probably prove merely temporary.

	Chests.
1889-90	28,372
1890-91	28,415
1891-92	29,122
1892-93	25,243½
1893-94	31,233
1894-95	29,288
1895-96	21,693
1896-97	22,289½
1897-98	16,676
1898-99	29,891

Opium prices in China, Bombay, and Calcutta.

25. The following statement shows the prices of opium ruling in the Bombay market in each month of the two years 1897-98 and 1898-99, contrasted with the prices quoted for similar opium in the principal markets of China, *viz.* Hongkong and Shanghai, and in the Calcutta market :—

Months.	1897-98.								1898-99.							
	Bombay Market.		Hongkong.		Shanghai.		Calcutta Market (a).		Bombay Market.		Hongkong.		Shanghai.		Calcutta Market (a).	
	One year old.	Two years old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	Patna.	Benares.	One year old.	Two years old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	Patna.	Benares.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
August	1,172	1,259	1,092	1,192	1,176	1,238	1,006	1,010	1,046	1,107	1,139	1,238	1,159	1,264	1,059	1,024
September	1,163	1,241	1,183	1,282	1,216	1,269	983	986	1,075	1,136	1,096	1,196	1,177	1,299	1,098	1,066
October	1,171	1,219	1,225	1,339	1,276	1,348	984	992	1,064	1,123	1,097	1,219	1,137	1,265	1,104	1,072
November	1,114	1,182	1,155	1,235	1,274	1,348	993	1,021	1,072	1,112	1,108	1,210	1,156	1,281	1,144	1,145
December	1,087	1,159	1,130	1,194	1,150	1,274	1,044	1,043	1,062	1,128	1,061	1,142	1,145	1,267	1,131	1,114
January	1,062	1,158	1,065	1,143	1,116	1,252	1,028	1,014	1,048	1,122	1,064	1,120	1,135	1,254	1,154	1,137
February	1,040	1,146	1,050	1,167	1,116	1,260	928	963	1,035	1,096	1,058	1,130	1,085	1,229	1,162	1,147
March	1,072	1,163	1,082	1,240	1,151	1,294	956	943	1,068	1,119	1,090	1,191	1,091	1,237	1,177	1,149
April	1,086	1,175	1,141	1,203	1,132	1,267	932	936	1,074	1,121	1,104	1,211	1,124	1,302	1,150	1,173
May	1,061	1,135	1,137	1,198	1,148	1,257	923	930	1,077	1,123	1,105	1,223	1,105	1,272	1,043	1,029
June	1,054	1,115	1,192	1,262	1,189	1,318	953	956	1,090	1,128	1,084	1,194	1,113	1,274	1,099	1,110
July	1,037	1,093	1,162	1,252	1,184	1,292	1,009	971	1,095	1,155	1,086	1,219	1,136	1,277	1,185	1,180
Total ..	13,129	14,045	13,614	14,707	14,128	15,417	11,739	11,765	12,896	13,470	13,092	14,293	13,566	15,221	13,506	13,346
Average ..	1,094	1,170	1,134	1,226	1,177	1,285	978	980	1,067	1,122	1,091	1,191	1,130	1,268	1,125	1,112

(a) *Note.*—In Calcutta, opium of two seasons is not in the market at the same time, and therefore there is only one price for each of the two varieties (Behar and Benares) of opium sold at Government sales.

26. The average prices of opium in the Bombay market during the year under report have been Rs. 1,067 per chest for new opium and Rs. 1,122 per chest for old opium against Rs. 1,094 and Rs. 1,170 per chest of new and old opium, respectively, in the preceding year. The prices include the duty fixed for exports by sea to China and other foreign countries. Since June 1899, there has been a marked rise in the prices of opium in the Bombay market owing to anticipated short crops due to failure of rain in Málwa this year. It may, however, be noted that the stocks now existing in Málwa are estimated at 50,000 chests—equal to nearly two years' supply.

EXPORTS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Exports to Foreign Countries and Ports in other Presidencies.

27. Exports to African ports increased from 12½ chests to 23 chests, and those to Cochin and Allepey from 44 to 74 chests. There were no exports to Singápur. Half a chest was exported to Daman (Portuguese territory) as in the previous year. Three chests were exported to the Hyderabad Assigned Districts against none in the preceding year.

DISTRIBUTION.

HOME CONSUMPTION.

Wholesale transactions.

28. The remaining 1,072 chests were sold for consumption in the Bombay Presidency, as under—

	Chests.
(*a*) To Government for the supply of their Depôts, from which opium is issued to Native States and to licensed retailers in British Districts	443½
(*b*) To British Opium farmers	464½
(*c*) To Native Chiefs	164
	1,072

These 1,072 chests are in addition to the 511 chests referred to in paragraph 21 as having been imported direct by British opium farmers and Native States without passing through the accounts of the Bombay Opium Warehouse. Thus the total stock for home consumption throughout the Bombay Presidency in the year under report was 1,583 chests as against 1,465 chests in the previous year.

Standard of weight used for purposes of accounts.

29. The standard of weight adopted in retailing opium and in keeping the opium accounts at Government depôts, and those rendered by farmers and Native States throughout the Presidency is pounds, tolas, and grains, each pound containing 40 tolas and each tola 180 grains.

Government Stock and Purchases.

30. Government bought in the year under report 443½ chests, the price paid therefor being Rs. 5,91,882, and the weight of the opium brought to account 60,365 lbs., the average price per pound being Rs. 9-12-11 as against Rs. 9-13-4 in the previous year. The balance in the depôts at the opening of the year was 18,149 lbs., valued at Rs. 1,81,156. The total stock of the year, including the opening balance, was 78,514 lbs., of the aggregate value of Rs. 7,73,038, giving an average cost of Rs. 9-13-6 compared with Rs. 10-0-4 in the previous year.

Issues from Government Depôts.

31. The issues from the Government depôts during the year were 51,195 lbs., of which 27,527 lbs. were supplied to British licensed retailers, 2 lbs. to the Commissariat Department, and 23,665 lbs. were sold to Native Chiefs. The realizations were Rs. 5,57,522, of which Rs. 53,481 were adjusted by credit to sale-proceeds, and debit to "Refunds and Drawbacks," on account of remission of pass-fees in favour of the Native Chiefs to whom the opium was supplied. The prime cost of the opium sold was Rs. 5,05,957. Deducting from the realizations the expenditure of Rs. 5,21,705 detailed in the margin,* the net profit to Government was Rs. 35,817 against Rs. 32,716 in the previous year.

	Rs.
* (1) Prime cost	5,05,957
(2) Value of 495 lbs. written off as loss from wastage and dryage in the Depôts	4,870
(3) Charges incurred on account of the transport of opium from Bombay to up-country Depôts	8,827
(4) Cost of the maintenance of the Government Depôts at Sádra and Palanpur	2,051
	5,21,705

Closing Balance.

32. Deducting the issues and the loss by dryage from the opening balance and purchases there remained in stock in the Government depôts at the end of the year 26,825 lbs. valued at Rs. 2,62,211.

RETAIL TRANSACTIONS.

BRITISH DISTRICTS.

Quantities placed on Sale.

33. The total quantity of opium placed on sale at the shops in British districts, excluding unsold stocks taken over at the beginning of the year by the incoming from the outgoing farmers, which do not pass through the Government accounts, was as under :—

	Lbs.
Issued from Government Depôts as per paragraph 31 ...	27,527
Imported by licensees from Málwa as per paragraph 21 (187 chests)	25,453
Purchased by licensees in the Bombay market as per paragraph 22 (464½ chests)	63,224
	1,16,204

DISTRIBUTION.

HOME CONSUMPTION.

BRITISH DISTRICTS.

34. The subjoined statement shows the quantities of opium which actually passed into consumption during the year under report in each British district, compared with the corresponding figures for the previous year :—

Quantities Sold.

Names of Districts.	1897-98.	1898-99.	Names of Districts.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	Lbs.	Lbs.		Lbs.	Lbs.
Bombay	13,518	13,662	Brought forward...	89,384	87,476
Ahmedabad ...	15,636	16,187			
Kaira	7,949	7,179	Sátára	2,441	2,190
Panch Maháls ...	3,390	2,922	Belgaum	576	623
Broach	6,769	6,196	Dhárwár	951	848
Baroda Cantonment .	56	65	Bijápur	355	332
Surat	3,055	3,093	Kánara	109	103
Thána	787	751	Ratnágiri	256	254
Násik	4,275	4,418	Kolába	592	580
Khándesh	12,317	12,559	Karáchi	4,617	4,568
Ahmednagar ...	7,310	6,476	Hyderabad ...	13,398	12,623
Poona	7,727	7,824	Shikárpur	4,486	4,433
Sholápur	6,595	6,144	Aden	145	131
Carried forward ..	89,384	87,476	Total ...	1,17,310	1,14,161

Causes of Increase and Decrease.

35. The total licit sales of opium in British districts decreased during the year by 3,149 lbs. as compared with the previous year. The decrease was chiefly in the following districts:—Kaira (770 lbs.), Panch Maháls (468 lbs.), Broach (573 lbs.), Ahmednagar (834 lbs.), Sholápur (451 lbs.), Sátára (251 lbs.), and Hyderabad (775 lbs.). These decreases are represented as mainly due to plague and plague restrictions. But other causes such as depression in trade and impoverishment consequent on famine and scarcity, cessation of pilgrimages, mortality amongst opium eaters, and abstinence on the part of others have also operated in decreasing the consumption to a considerable extent. The Collectors of the Panch Maháls and Kaira attribute a part of the decrease to smuggling which is reported to be still rife in their districts. Steps have, however, been taken to watch the frontiers of these Collectorates, and I may mention that the efforts of the Special Opium Preventive Service, which commenced its operations in that direction on a small scale from 1st August last, pending the final approval of Government to the scheme now before them, have already proved most satisfactory. Some important seizures have been made and several cases of opium smuggling in the Kaira District have recently been detected and the smugglers adequately punished. This new agency has also worked with good effect in the Ahmedabad and Khándesh Districts, where sales have increased in the year under report by 551 and 242 lbs., respectively, as compared with the previous year. It is hoped, therefore, that continued exertions and vigilance on the part of the Special Service (when strengthened as proposed in the correspondence ending with this office No. 5791, dated the 16th October last,) will largely put a stop to smuggling and lead to a considerable increase in revenue in the districts named. The increases and decreases in other districts do not call for special remarks.

Native States supplied through Government.

36. As in former reports, in discussing the transactions in the Native States under the Bombay Presidency, it is convenient to begin with those States whose supplies are obtained through the British Government, and have been included in the total Government stock receipts accounted for above, paragraph 28, leaving Baroda, which itself grows the poppy and manufactures opium, both for export and for home consumption, to be dealt with separately.

Quantities Supplied.

37. The total quantities indented for by Native States during the year under report, according to the figures given in paragraphs 21, 22, and 31, are shown below, together with the corresponding totals for 1896-97 and 1897-98 :—

DISTRIBUTION.

HOME CONSUMPTION.

Quantities Supplied.

Name of State or Political Agency.	From Malwa.				From Bombay.				Issued from Government Local Depôt.	Total 1898-99.	Corresponding Totals for	
	Imported free of Duty.		Imported on payment of Duty.		Purchased in the Market.		Issued from the Government Main Depôt.				1896-97.	1897-98.
	Chests.	Lbs.	Chests.	Lbs.	Chests.	Lbs.	Chests.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Kutch	..	..	..	..	85½	11,637	..	..	..	11,637	11,433	9,800
Káthiáwár	..	..	191	25,997	62	8,439	..	..	13,414	47,850	49,827	49,396
Pálanpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,920	13,495	13,337	13,399
Mahi Kántha	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	408	1,235	5,182	8,312	8,359
Rewa Kantha	..	..	10½	1,429	..	..	..	..	..	5,172	6,193	6,533
Cambay	..	..	..	..	13	1,769	..	..	..	2,450	3,402	2,042
Other States	..	..	1	136	3½	476	5	681	3,007	4,300	4,846	4,467
Total for 1898-99	121½	16,538	202½	27,562	164	22,321	8	1,089	22,576	90,086	97,350	93,996
Corresponding Totals for 1896-97	141½	19,260	184½	25,112	166	22,594	7	952	29,432	97,350	...	...
Corresponding Totals for 1897-98	141½	19,259	159½	21,710	185	25,181	7	953	26,893	93,996	..	...

Quantities Sold.

38. Information regarding the quantities sold out of these stocks is furnished in the accounts rendered by the Darbárs as indicated below. Differences between the quantities indented for, as shown in the preceding paragraph, and those actually credited in the accounts, are due to the fact that purchases made at the end of one year sometimes do not appear in the Darbár accounts till after the beginning of the next year.

Kutch Opium Accounts.

39. The licit sales in Kutch are compared in the subjoined table with similar figures for each of the two previous years and with the average of the three years ending 1895-96:—

	Average of three years ending 1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Stock on hand at the beginning of the year	1,596	1,779	3,161	1,845
Imported during the year ...	8,988	11,760	10,080	11,940
Confiscated Opium	4	...	...	10
Total Stock ...	10,588	13,539	13,241	13,795
Issued to licensed Retailers and used for the Darbár consumption	8,832	10,097	11,103	10,768
Dryage	230	281	293	361
Stock on hand at the end of the year	1,526	3,161	1,845	2,666
Total ...	10,588	13,539	13,241	13,795

40. During the year under report the sales in Kutch fell off by 335 lbs. compared with the previous year, but were more by 1,936 lbs. than the average of the three years ending 1895-96. The decrease is due to emigration of people owing to scarcity of rain in Wágad and some parts of Abdása in the year.

41. The accounts furnished by the States and Chiefs in Káthiáwár are summarised below :—

	Annual average of three years ending 1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Stock on hand at the beginning of the year	9,091	12,491	11,380	11,044
Imported by direct purchase in Bombay and Málwa	39,379	31,708	33,074	33,551
Purchased from Rájkot Depôt ...	13,234	18,121	16,184	13,417
Confiscated Opium	169	43	215	63
Excess found in Stock on re-weighment	13	16	9	15
Total Receipts	61,886	62,379	60,862	58,090
Sold to public or licensed Retailers and used for Darbár consumption ...	51,190	50,696	49,412	46,355
Loss from Dryage	340	303	406	320
Stock on hand at the end of the year .	10,356	11,380	11,044	11,415
Total of Sales, Loss, and Balance ...	61,886	62,379	60,862	58,090

42. The following statement shows the licit sales in each main division of Káthiáwár. Details regarding certain of the principal Native States in each division are also given in the statement :— Licit Sales in each main division of Kathiáwár.

Names of Divisions and States.	Annual average of three years ending 1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Jhálávád—				
Dhrángadhra	1,543	1,726	1,624	1,385
Limbdi	473	523	488	467
Wadhwán (including Wadhwán Thána and Civil Station) ...	1,798	1,864	1,725	1,520
Lakhtar	232	231	195	235
Bajána	305	294	243	248
Other States	3,942	4,395	3,758	3,500
Total ...	8,293	9,033	8,033	7,355
Sorath—				
Junágadh	8,011	7,293	6,937	6,831
Porbandar	1,407	1,460	1,402	1,323
Jáfrábád	267	292	246	178
Other States	5,222	5,378	5,039	4,545
Total ..	14,907	14,423	13,624	12,877

DISTRIBUTION.

HOME CONSUMPTION.

NATIVE STATES.

Licit Sales in each main division of Káthiáwár.

Names of Divisions and States—*continued.*	Annual average of three years ending 1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Hálár—				
Navánagar	4,141	4,057	3,935	3,590
Morvi	1,906	2,191	2,590	2,066
Gondal	2,512	2,666	2,577	2,360
Vankáner	562	504	461	449
Dhrol	647	519	496	524
Rájkot (including Civil Station) ...	2,311	1,838	1,786	1,669
Other States	3,325	3,473	3,408	3,136
Total ...	15,404	15,248	15,253	13,794
Gohelvád —				
Bhávnagar	9,241	8,622	8,775	8,492
Pálitána	854	876	1,199	1,341
Other States	2,492	2,494	2,528	2,496
Total ...	12,587	11,992	12,502	12,329
Grand Total ...	51,191	50,696	49,412	46,355

43. The total sales of opium in Káthiáwár were less by 3,057 lbs. than in the previous year. All the four divisions show a decrease, namely, Jhálávád (678 lbs.), Sorath (747 lbs.), Hálár (1,459 lbs.), and Gohelvád (173 lbs.). The decreases are reported to be due to (1) fewer marriages, (2) succession of bad years, (3) impoverishment of people, (4) plague, and (5) gradual decrease in the opium habit.

Jhálávád.

44. Excepting Lakhtár and Bajána, which show an increase of 40 lbs. and 5 lbs. respectively, all the States comprised in the Jhálávád division show a falling off, the "other States" not specified being responsible for 258 lbs.

Sorath.

Hálár.

Gohelvád.

In the Sorath division the decline was chiefly in Junágadh (106 lbs.), and the "other States" not specified (494 lbs.). In the Hálár division all the States, except Dhrol, show a falling off. Dhrol shows an increase of 28 lbs. In the Gohelvád division Bhávnagar and "other States" not specified show a decrease of 283 lbs. and 32 lbs. respectively, whereas Pálitána shows an increase of 142 lbs.

Pálanpur, Mahi Kántha, Rewa Kántha, and Cambay.

45. The accounts of opium transactions in Pálanpur, the Mahi Kántha, the Rewa Kántha, and Cambay are summarised below:—

Names of States and Years.	Opening Stock.	Imported and locally purchased.	Total Stock.	Sold and consumed.	Loss from Dryage.	Closing Stock.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Pálanpur.						
Annual average of three years ending 1895-96 ...	2,416	12,914	15,330	12,586	234	2,510
In 1896-97	2,321	13,317	15,638	13,322	164	2,152
„ 1897-98	2,152	13,458	15,610	13,515	172	1,923
„ 1898-99	1,923	13,507	15,430	14,092	183	1,156
Mahi Kántha.						
Annual average of three years ending 1895-96 ...	823	9,365	10,188	9,215	65	908
In 1896-97	889	8,248	9,137	8,150	85	902
„ 1897-98	902	8,437	9,339	8,375	59	905
„ 1898-99	905	5,041	5,946	5,007	65	874

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NATIVE STATES.

Pálanpur, Mahi Kántha, Rewa Kántha, and Cambay.

Names of States and Years—*contd.*	Opening Stock.	Imported and locally purchased.	Total Stock.	Sold and consumed.	Loss from Dryage.	Closing Stock.
Rewa Kántha.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Annual average of three years ending 1895-96 ...	997	6,859	7,856	6,542	313	1,001
In 1896-97	1,017	6,797	7,814	6,246	259	1,309
„ 1897-98	1,309	6,034	7,343	6,037	235	1,071
„ 1898-99	1,071	6,013	7,084	5,464	215	1,155
Cambay.						
Annual average of three years ending 1895-96 ...	436	2,631	3,067	2,656	...	411
In 1896-97	183	2,989	3,172	2,853	...	319
„ 1897-98	319	2,455	2,774	2,324	3	447
„ 1898-99	447	2,454	2,901	2,498	2	401

46. The licit sales of opium in the year under report in some of the principal Native States under the Pálanpur Superintendency, and in the Mahi Kántha and the Rewa Kántha, are contrasted in the subjoined table with those for the two previous years and with the average for the three years ending 1895-96 :—

Names of States.	Annual average of three years ending 1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
Pálanpur Superintendency.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Pálanpur	3,480	4,250	4,307	4,744
Rádhanpur	2,622	2,322	2,187	2,231
Tharád	1,494	1,522	1,717	1,786
Mahi Kántha.				
I'dar	1,621	1,387	1,764	1,322
Dánta	244	241	248	268
Rewa Kántha.				
Rájpipla	2,114	2,010	1,883	1,762
Chhota-Udepur	265	315	322	283
Sunth	423	391	351	294
Lunávada	734	723	755	687
Bálásinor	378	413	406	304
Báriya	624	679	692	618

47. The sales in the Pálanpur Superintendency rose from 13,515 lbs. to 14,092 lbs. during the year under report and those in Cambay from 2,324 lbs. to 2,498 lbs., whereas in Mahi Kántha and Rewa Kántha they fell off by 3,368 lbs. and 573 lbs. respectively. The opium management in Cambay was continued departmentally as the State is unwilling to adopt the selection system of farming. There is no serious objection to this arrangement. The decrease in Mahi Kántha is attributable to the change in the opium arrangements introduced into the Agency during the year under report. Hitherto the farmers were supplied with opium by the States and Tálukas at prices which did not include the full excise duty leviable thereon. Thus it paid them to pass on opium into the neighbouring British districts to the detriment of British revenue. This irregularity in the observance of the agreement was brought to the notice of the Political Agent, who, as stated in paragraph 48 of my last Administration Report, at once took steps to put a stop to the practice and to introduce in lieu thereof

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NATIVE STATES.

Pálanpur, Mahi Kántha, Rewa Kántha, and Cambay.

a system whereby full excise duty, over and above the value of the opium, is recovered from the vendors just in the same way as in the Presidency Proper. This has rendered smuggling by State farmers improbable and has reduced sales to legitimate limits.

48. As stated in my last report on the opium administration, inquiries were made and copies of the licenses granted by the several Native Chiefs to their licensed vendors of opium were carefully scrutinised with a view to ascertain if irregularities of the nature referred to in the preceding paragraph were being permitted, and it was found that with but few exceptions all the States have been abiding by the terms of their agreements. The Native State of Dharampur, under the Surat Agency, used to grant to its licensed vendor of opium discount on the quantity of opium purchased by him on the principle of the refund of the one-fifth of the pass-fee conceded to the State by the British Government. This was objectionable, as the vendor could then dispose of the opium below the rate prevailing in the neighbouring British district. Similarly in certain tálukas of the Pálanpur Superintendency full pass-fee of Rs. 5 per lb. was not levied from the licensed vendors, who could thus sell the drug at a price lower than that ruling in the adjoining British territory. The license granted by the Bhor State stipulated that the licensee must guarantee the sale of certain quantity of opium: this was opposed to the policy and orders of Government. All these irregularities were pointed out to the Political Agents concerned, who were requested to arrange as early as possible to remove them.

Other States.

49. The other States, excepting Baroda, obtain their supplies as a rule from the nearest British depôt, or from the Central Depôt at Bombay. The consumption is small, and for the most part they submit no detailed accounts. With the exception of the Native States of Dharampur, Bánsda, Sachin and Bhor, which also occasionally bring their supplies direct from the Bombay market or from Málwa, the quantities supplied during the year, which are given below, represent the licit consumption sufficiently accurately for practical purposes :—

Names of States.	Annual average of three years ending 1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Dharampur	181	204	204	136
Bánsda	91	68	136	68
Sachin	47	...	...	136
Jawhár	7	7	5	3
Surgána	11	5	6	2
Akalkot	289	274	270	247
Bhor	471	318	348	349
Phaltan	555	475	439	405
Játh	108	96	79	74
Aundh	355	288	302	264
Sávantvádi	45	...	68	...
Kolhápur	363	272	273	408
Sángli	882	901	770	631
Miraj (Senior)	1,039	922	779	517
Do. (Junior)	357	314	194	126
Kurundvád (Senior)	133	182	133	259
Do. (Junior)	80	...	72	123
Jamkhandi	118	138	147	154
Mudhol	51	40	30	42
Rámdurg	26	21	17	22
Sávanur	36	49	59	62
Janjira	227	272	136	272
Total ...	5,472	4,846	4,467	4,300

50. The subjoined table gives the figures of production and consumption in the Baroda State:—

	Average of three years ending 1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Area under Poppy cultivation ...	7,306	6,371	4,313	1,775
Poppy Juice.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Stock on hand at the beginning of the year	82,652	108,343	118,958	69,123
Purchased during the year	88,022	118,778	68,719	33,464
Total ...	170,674	227,121	187,677	102,587
Utilized in the manufacture of Opium ...	82,721	108,163	118,554	68,981
Stock on hand at the end of the year ...	87,953	118,958	69,123	33,606
Total ...	170,674	227,121	187,677	102,587
Production and Purchase of Opium.				
Stock on hand at the beginning of the year	312,198	289,322	327,726	380,643
Manufactured from juice	72,993	93,323	105,385	63,331
Imported from Málwa	.....	...	...	...
Confiscated Opium	24	28	22	14
Total Stock ...	385,215	382,673	433,133	443,988
Disposal of Opium.				
Exported to Bombay *viâ* Ahmedabad ...	11,344	...	...	40,764
Issued to Licensed Retailers	60,166	49,141	47,448	47,010
Total ...	71,510	49,141	47,448	87,774
Loss from Dryage, &c.	6,741	5,806	5,042	5,272
Stock on hand at the end of the year ...	306,964	327,726	380,643	350,942
Total of Exports, and Sales, Loss and Balance	385,215	382,673	433,133	443,988

51. In the year under report the area under poppy cultivation was only 1,775 acres as against 4,313 acres in the previous year, a decrease of 2,538 acres. The stocks of opium on hand at the end of the year have also decreased from 380,643 lbs. to 350,942 lbs. Out of these stocks 297 chests, equivalent to about 40,425 lbs., were passed after the end of the year under report from the Ahmedabad scales for export to China. This has further reduced the stocks to 310,517 lbs. It is true this supply, if actually available, would represent about seven years' consumption of the Baroda territory; but much of it is opium merely maturing, and it may be gathered from the large diminution effected in the area under poppy cultivation and the exports of the Baroda-grown opium made during the last and the current years, that the Baroda Government are endeavouring to reduce the stock of opium on hand.

52. The subjoined table shows the quantities sold in each of the main divisions of His Highness the Gáekwár's Dominions in the year under

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HOME CONSUMPTION.
NATIVE STATES.
Baroda.

report, contrasted with the sales in each of the two previous years and the average for the three years ending 1895-96:—

Names of Divisions.	Annual average of three years ending 1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Navsári	3,342	2,899	2,805	2,820
Baroda	32,010	26,593	26,173	25,333
Kadi	12,400	9,325	10,611	10,290
Amreli	13,179	10,654	8,190	7,769
Total ...	60,931	49,471	47,779	46,212

The total licit sales were less by 1,567 lbs. than in the previous year. Of the four Divisions Baroda, Kadi and Amreli show a decrease of 840 lbs., 321 lbs., and 421 lbs. respectively, whereas the Navsári Division shows an increase of 15 lbs.

Rate of licit consumption in British Districts & Native States in Gujarát.

53. The following table shows the yearly rate of licit consumption per head of population for the year under report and the two previous years in each British district in Gujarát, in each main division of His Highness the Gáekwár's Dominions, and of the Province of Káthiáwár and in the Native States of Kutch, Pálanpúr, the Mahi Kántha, the Rewa Kántha and Cambay, these being the parts of the Presidency in which opium is most largely consumed:—

Names of Districts and States.	Population.	Rate of licit consumption per head of Population in Tolas.		
		1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
British Gujarát—				
Ahmedabad	921,712	·69	·68	·70
Kaira	871,589	·36	·36	·33
Panch Mahals	313,417	·45	·43	·37
Broach	341,490	·85	·79	·73
Surat	649,989	·19	·19	·19
Baroda Territory—				
Navsári	319,443	·36	·35	·35
Baroda	813,074	1·31	1·29	1·25
Kadi	1,098,742	·34	·39	·37
Amreli	180,188	2·37	1·82	1·72
Káthiáwár—				
Jhálávád	428,906	·84	·75	·68
Sorath	785,032	·73	·69	·66
Hálár	862,026	·71	·71	·64
Gohelvád	676,440	·71	·74	·73
Kutch State	558,415	·72	·80	·77
Pálanpur Superintendency	645,526	·83	·84	·87
Mahi Kántha Agency	581,568	·56	·58	·34
Rewa Kántha Agency	733,506	·34	·33	·30
Cambay	89,722	1·27	1·04	1·11

As usual the consumption in the Baroda and Amreli Divisions and in Cambay is far in excess of that anywhere else in British or Native territory in Gujarát.

STATISTICS.

Number of Shops opened.

54. The following statement shows the number of shops licensed for the sale of opium in each district of the Bombay Presidency during the year under report and the previous year:—

STATISTICS.

Number of Shops opened.

District.	1897-98.	1898-99.
Bombay	11	11
Ahmedabad	157	157
Kaira	142	141
Panch Maháls	37	37
Broach...	50	50
Surat	24	24
Thána	16	16
Násik	41	41
Khándesh	106	105
Ahmednagar	54	54
Poona	51	51
Sholápur	42	42
Sátára	38	38
Belgaum	15	15
Dhárwár	20	22
Bijápur	16	16
Kánara	11	11
Ratnágiri	8	8
Kolába	13	14
Hyderabad	93	93
Karáchi	77	77
Shikárpur	62	62
Thar and Párkar	54	54
Upper Sind Frontier... ...	11	11
Total ...	1,149	1,150

55. The total number of opium shops opened during the year under report increased by 1 as compared with the previous year. In Dhárwár and Kolába there was an increase of 2 shops and 1 shop, respectively, while Kaira and Khándesh show a decrease of 1 each. The wishes of the local inhabitants were ascertained wherever new shops were opened.

Licenses to Medical Practitioners.

56. In addition to the shops for the retail sale of opium shown in the preceding paragraph, 406 licenses were granted in the year under report against 109 in the previous year for the possession and sale of opium and certain preparations thereof, for medical purposes only, to medical practitioners, druggists, &c., in the below mentioned districts. The increase in Bombay is due to the general renewal of these licenses in the year under report:—

	1897-98.	1898-99.
Bombay	24	317
Ahmedabad	11	11
Kaira	1	1
Surat	12	14
Poona	57	57
Belgaum	2	1
Kolába	1	4
Hyderabad	1	1
Total ...	109	406

REALIZATIONS.

IMPERIAL.

Deductions for Duty on Home Consumption.

57. As regards the financial results of the year's administration, it will be seen from paragraph 19 above, that the duty on opium realized and brought to account during the year under report was Rs. 1,56,51,150. Of this sum, Rs. 10,23,400 represent the duty on excised opium bought or imported for home consumption as shown below:—

REALIZATIONS.

IMPERIAL.

Deductions for Duty on Home Consumption.

	Rs.
389½ chests imported on payment of Duty at Rs. 700 per chest	2,72,650
1,072½ chests imported on payment of Duty at Rs. 500 per chest	5,36,250
Differential Duty on 1,072½ chests at Rs. 200 per chest sold from the Bombay Central Warehouse as per paragraph 22 as follows:—	
*164½ chests to Native States... ...	
464½ chests to licensed opium vendors of British Districts	2,14,500
443½ chests to Government for supply of Depôts	
Total ...	10,23,400

* This includes one half chest issued to Daman.

58. The above sum of Rs. 10,23,400 has been transferred in the civil accounts of the Presidency to the divided head "Excise," leaving Rs. 1,46,27,750 as the balance of the duty-collections under the Imperial head "Opium." The latter sum includes Rs. 37,000 on account of duty on 74 chests of opium at the rate of Rs. 500 each, exported from Bombay to Cochin and Allepey in the Madras Presidency, to be adjusted in the accounts of that Presidency, and Rs. 1,500 on account of duty at the same rate on 3 chests of opium exported from Bombay to the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, to be similarly adjusted. The net duty on opium brought to Bombay for export to China and other places out of India was therefore Rs. 1,45,89,250 against Rs. 87,01,300 in the previous year, an increase of Rs. 58,87,950, the causes of which have been explained in paragraph 24 above.

Warehouse Rent and Transhipment and Re-export Fees.

59. The receipts on account of rent paid by the owners of opium stored in the Bombay Opium Warehouse were Rs. 20,697 against Rs. 14,636 in the previous year, an increase of Rs. 6,061. The fees realized on foreign opium imported into Bombay, Karáchi and Aden for transhipment or for re-exportation in the same bottom were Rs. 25,489 against Rs. 17,408 in the previous year, an increase of Rs. 8,081. These two items are credited to the Imperial head "Opium." The total number of chests of foreign opium brought to Bombay and transhipped in the harbour for China was 5,769 against 3,857. Of these, 3,680 paid the fees at Karáchi. Of the remaining 2,089 chests which paid fees in Bombay, 721½ were charged at the rate of Rs. 5; 916 at Rs. 4; and 451½ at Rs. 3 per chest.

EXCISE OPIUM REVENUE.

Drawbacks allowed to Native States.

60. Of the Rs. 10,23,400 noted in paragraph 58 above as transferred to the head "Excise," Rs. 3,75,030 are on account of opium imported or bought by Native States or Chiefs, and out of this sum Rs. 1,54,452½ have been or will be refunded to those States or Chiefs who are entitled, under the terms of their agreements, to remissions in full or in part of the pass-fee on opium consumed in their territory as shown in the subjoined table:—

Names of States.	Quantity of Duty-paid Opium bought.	Amount of Duty levied at Rs. 700 per Chest.	Duty Refundable.		Net Duty to be retained by Government.	
			Rate.	Amount.	Rate.	Amount.
	Lbs.	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Cambay	1,769	9,100	Full ...	9,100	.....	...
Cutch	11,637	59,850	One-third ...	19,950	Two-thirds...	39,900
Káthiáwár ...	47,850	2,44,170	Do. ...	81,390	Do. ...	1,62,780
Pálanpur ...	4,920	24,600	Full ...	24,600	.....	...
Mahi Kántha ...	1,643	8,275	Do. ...	8,275	.....	...
Rewa Kántha ...	1,429	7,350	Do. ...	7,350	.....	...
Sátára Jághirs ...	1,091	5,495	One-tenth ...	549½	Nine-tenths .	4,945½
Other States ...	3,209	16,190	One-fifth ...	3,238	Four-fifths...	12,952
Total ...	73,548	3,75,030	.....	1,54,452½	.....	2,20,577½

REALIZATIONS.

EXCISE OPIUM REVENUE.

61. Deducting from the sum of Rs. 10,23,400 mentioned in the preceding paragraph, the duty on opium bought for Native States, there remains a balance of Rs. 6,48,370, which represents the duty on opium imported or purchased for consumption in British territory during the year under report. Though these figures correctly represent the amount credited during the revenue year as an asset of excise revenue in the financial accounts in respect of duty on opium consumed in British territory, they do not correspond exactly with the duty, calculated at Rs. 700, per chest, on the quantities actually sold at the shops during the same period, which forms the basis of the revenue returns. The difference between the two sets of figures represents roughly the extent to which the opening balances of opium in hand at the Government Central and District Depôts, and at the shops have been increased or diminished by the year's transactions.

62. The subjoined table shows the duty on the actual sales, and the license fees for the privilege of selling opium by retail sale, realised during the year under report and the previous year :—

Names of Districts.	1897-98.			1898-99.		
	Duty on actual Sales.	License Fees.	Total.	Duty on actual Sales.	License Fees.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bombay	69,521	3,600	73,121	70,262	3,600	73,862
Ahmedabad	80,414	(a) 35	80,449	83,247	(a) 35	83,282
Kaira	40,880	(a) 2	40,882	36,921	(a) 1	36,922
Panch Mahâls	17,434	...	17,434	15,027	...	15,027
Broach	34,812	...	34,812	31,865	...	31,865
Surat	15,711	(a) 5	15,716	15,907	(a) 5	15,912
Thâna	4,047	1,755	5,802	3,862	1,925	5,787
Násik	21,986	...	21,986	22,721	...	22,721
Khándesh	63,345	...	63,345	64,589	...	64,589
Ahmednagar	37,594	...	37,594	33,305	...	33,305
Poona	39,739	...	39,739	40,238	...	40,238
Sholápur	33,917	...	33,917	31,598	...	31,598
Sátára	12,554	8,200	20,754	11,263	7,175	18,438
Belgaum	2,962	2,784	5,746	3,204	2,300	5,504
Dhárwár	4,891	3,827	8,718	4,361	6,000	10,361
Bijápur	1,826	1,219	3,045	1,708	1,041	2,749
Kánara	561	640	1,201	530	420	950
Ratnágiri	1,317	797	2,114	1,306	660	1,966
Kolába	3,045	934	3,979	2,983	1,630	4,613
Karáchi	23,745	...	23,745	23,493	...	23,493
Hyderabad	68,904	...	68,904	64,918	...	64,918
Shikárpur	23,070	...	23,070	22,798	...	22,798
Aden	746	1,720	2,466	674	1,480	2,154
Baroda Cantonment ...	288	150	438	334	192	526
Total ...	6,03,309	25,668	6,28,977	5,87,114	26,464	6,13,578

(a) Represent fees for licenses for sale of medicinal opium pills.

Total Realizations.

63. The following abstract shows the excise opium revenue from all sources for the year under report, and for each of the previous three years, contrasted with the average of the three years ending 1895-96. Details of refunds of revenue brought to account are also given in the statement :—

REALIZATIONS.

EXCISE OPIUM REVENUE.

Total Realizations.

Names of Items.	Annual average of three years ending 1895-96.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opium Duty	6,77,625	6,39,859	6,03,309	5,87,114
License Fees { For Opium Farms ..	15,007	29,894	25,668	26,464
License Fees { For Chandul and Madat Farms	...	...	...	...
Penalty for deficient sales by Licensees.	317	...	...	...
	6,92,949	6,69,753	6,28,977	6,13,578
Profit on sale of Government Opium ...	24,124	16,764	32,716	35,817
Contribution for Government Establishment	49,664	62,791	64,871	70,242
Fines and Confiscations	5,884	3,735	2,159	732
Miscellaneous Receipts	363	361	358	612
Total for British Districts ...	7,72,984	7,53,404	7,29,081	7,20,981
Duty at reduced rates on Opium consumed in:				
Káthiáwár	1,79,058	1,69,110	1,67,813	1,62,780
Kutch	30,645	39,200	33,600	39,900
Other States	22,798	20,086	18,562	17,898
Total for Native States ...	2,32,501	2,28,396	2,19,975	2,20,578
Grand Total ...	10,05,485	9,81,800	9,49,056	9,41,559
Refunds.				
Pass-fee	167	...	...	...
Penalty for deficient Sales ...	860	...	...	...
Fines and Confiscations	9	...	...	...
Total Refunds ...	1,036	...	...	...
Net Revenue ...	10,04,449	9,81,800	9,49,056	9,41,559

64. The total net excise opium receipts for the year under report were less by Rs. 7,497 than in the previous year. Of these receipts, one-fourth is credited to Provincial and three-fourths to Imperial Revenue.

IMPERIAL AND PROVINCIAL.

65. The following statement shows the details of the several items comprising the total Imperial Revenue of the Presidency from opium in the year under report, and in each of the two previous years. The net Provincial share of the excise opium revenue for the same period is also shown therein:—

REALIZATIONS.
IMPERIAL AND PROVINCIAL.

Items.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opium Duty...	1,45,76,800	96,52,500	1,56,51,150
Deduct			
Duty on Opium transferred to "Excise" ...	10,21,250	9,26,800	10,23,400
Duty on Exports to Cochin and Allepey ...	43,200	24,400	37,000
Do. to Hyderabad Assigned Districts	...	...	1,500
	10,64,450	9,51,200	10,61,900
Net Opium Duty ...	1,35,12,350	87,01,300	1,45,89,250
Transhipment and Re-export Fees	22,471	17,408	25,489
Warehouse Rent and other Miscellaneous receipts.	18,533	14,636	20,697
Total ...	1,35,53,354	87,33,344	1,46,35,436
Deduct—Refunds ...	...	...	...
Net Receipts ...	1,35,53,354	87,33,344	1,46,35,436
Add—Imperial Share of Excise Receipts ...	7,36,350	7,11,792	7,06,169
Total Imperial Receipts ...	1,42,89,704	94,45,136	1,53,41,605
Net Provincial Share ...	2,45,450	2,37,264	2,35,390
Add— *Vide* Government of India's No. 2915-A, dated 1st July 1898, embodied in Government Resolution No. 4521, dated 11th July 1898, Revenue Department	...	...	+3,000

The total Imperial revenue from opium for the year under report was Rs. 1,53,41,605 against Rs. 94,45,136 in the previous year, an increase of Rs. 58,96,469. The Provincial share, Rs. 2,35,390, together with the addition of Rs. 3,000 sanctioned by Government of India to recoup loss of a part of the Excise revenue on account of confiscated opium supplied to the Patna and Gházipur Opium Factories, was more by Rs. 1,126 than the previous year.

EXPENDITURE.

66. The expenditure on account of a portion of the opium establishment employed in the Town and Island of Bombay and that entertained at the Ahmedabad Opium Agency, which is debited to the Imperial head "Opium," was Rs. 27,201 during the year under report against Rs. 25,933 in the previous year. The expenditure on account of the Excise Opium Department is included in that of the A'bkári Department and cannot be separated. But the approximate annual cost of the permanent Excise Opium Establishment may be estimated at Rs. 30,000 as in previous years. In addition to this a temporary establishment, costing about Rs. 51,366 a year, was engaged. Thus the total expenditure on account of establishment was Rs. 81,366. Of this sum, Rs. 70,242 were recovered from such of the opium farmers as are required to contribute fixed sums on account of Preventive establishments.

OFFENCES.
NUMBER OF CASES ADJUDICATED.

67. The subjoined table shows the number of cases under the Opium Act investigated by Magistrates, the number of cases in which convictions were obtained, the number of cases dismissed, and the aggregate quantity of opium seized in each British district and Native State (except Baroda, for which no returns are received), side by side with the corresponding figures for the previous year:—

OFFENCES.

NUMBER OF CASES ADJUDICATED.

British Districts.

Districts.	1897-98. Cases in which convictions were obtained. No. of Cases.	1897-98. Cases in which convictions were obtained. No. of Persons.	1897-98. Cases dismissed. No. of Cases.	1897-98. Cases dismissed. No. of Persons.	1897-98. Total Cases brought up. No. of Cases.	1897-98. Total Cases brought up. No. of Persons	1897-98. Quantity of contraband Opium seized. Lbs. t. g.	1898-99. Cases in which convictions were obtained. No. of Cases.	1898-99. Cases in which convictions were obtained. No. of Persons.	1898-99. Cases dismissed. No. of Cases.	1898-99. Cases dismissed. No. of Persons.	1898-99. Total Cases brought up. No. of Cases.	1898-99. Total Cases brought up. No. of Persons	1898-99. Quantity of contraband Opium seized. Lbs. t. g.
Bombay	17	25	3	5	20	30	22 11 45	17	20	1	10	18	30	19 25 135
Ahmedabad	30	30	4	4	34	34	31 18 57	19	21	2	2	21	23	47 32 124
Kaira	36	38	3	3	39	41	61 18 105	16	16	5	5	21	21	18 21 176
Panch Mahâls	48	52	1	2	49	54	59 11 111	58	58	3	3	61	61	26 36 37
Broach	3	4	..	..	3	4	0 10 107	4	4	..	..	4	4	0 7 90
Surat	1	1	..	..	1	1	0 0 45	2	2	..	..	2	2	0 2 125
Thána	3	3	..	..	3	3	0 12 68	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Nasik	15	16	3	3	18	19	16 25 176	24	24	..	..	24	24	8 30 74
Khándesh	33	35	5	5	38	40	59 0 129	48	49	5	5	53	54	53 27 177
Ahmednagar	2	2	..	..	2	2	0 1 90	1	1	..	..	1	1	0 5 0
Poona	3	3	1	2	4	5	6 15 150	8	8	..	..	8	8	1 39 7
Sholapur	5	7	1	2	6	9	5 39 45	3	3	1	1	4	4	0 18 103
Sátára	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	1	1	3	3	4	4	1 12 0
Belgaum	2	2	..	..	2	2	0 16 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Dhárwár	..	..	1	1	1	1	0 0 19	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Bijápur	1	1	..	..	1	1	0 10 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Kánara	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Ratnágiri	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Kolába	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Hyderabad	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	4	4	1	1	5	5	0 10 37
Karáchi	..	..	1	1	1	1	0 5 45	2	2	..	..	2	2	0 25 117
Shikárpur	8	12	1	1	9	13	1 2 168	3	3	..	..	3	3	0 8 67
Thar and Párkar	5	5	..	..	5	5	2 13 104	2	2	..	1	2	3	0 11 0
Upper Sind Frontier ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Aden	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Total ...	212	236	24	29	236	265	267 14 24	212	218	21	31	233	249	180 35 9

Native States.

Native States.	1897-98. Cases in which convictions were obtained. No. of Cases.	1897-98. Cases in which convictions were obtained. No. of Persons.	1897-98. Cases dismissed. No. of Cases.	1897-98. Cases dismissed. No. of Persons.	1897-98. Total Cases brought up. No. of Cases.	1897-98. Total Cases brought up. No. of Persons.	1897-98. Quantity of contraband Opium seized. Lbs. t. g.	1898-99. Cases in which convictions were obtained. No. of Cases.	1898-99. Cases in which convictions were obtained. No. of Persons.	1898-99. Cases dismissed. No. of Cases.	1898-99. Cases dismissed. No. of Persons.	1898-99. Total Cases brought up. No. of Cases.	1898-99. Total Cases brought up. No. of Persons.	1898-99. Quantity of contraband Opium seized. Lbs. t. g.
Kutch	1	1	..	..	1	1	0 2 138	4	7	..	2	4	9	10 8 36
Káthiáwár	7	18	2	3	9	21	172 24 55	14	22	3	13	17	35	168 30 11
Pálanpur	20	21	1	2	21	23	41 15 104	12	39	..	2	12	41	724 23 157
Mahi Kántha	20	25	3	4	23	29	23 33 130	20	29	4	4	24	33	26 37 80
Rewa Kántha	84	89	2	5	86	94	9 19 63	78	93	..	1	78	94	157 14 156
Kolhápur and Southern Marátha Country ..	1	1	1	1	2	2	1 8 139	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
States under Surat Agency	..	..	..	..	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Sholápur Agency	1	1	..	..	1	1	2 0 0	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Total ..	134	156	9	15	143	171	250 24 89	128	190	7	22	135	212	1,087 34 80
GRAND TOTAL ..	346	392	33	44	379	436	517 38 113	340	408	28	53	368	461	1,268 29 89

68. The total number of opium cases detected in British Districts was 233 against 236 in the previous year, a decrease of 3. The quantity of opium seized was also less by 86 lbs. The percentage of convictions on the total number of cases brought up was 91 against 90 in the previous year.

69. In the Native States the total number of cases detected decreased by 8, but the quantity of opium seized was more by 837 lbs., due mainly to the large captures in Pálanpur and the Rewa Kántha as detailed in paragraph 70. The percentage of convictions on the total number of cases brought up was 94·8 against 94 in the previous year.

Cases in which the quantity of Opium seized exceeded 40 lbs. or in which organized smuggling was noticed.

70. The following are the cases in which the quantity of contraband opium seized exceeded 40 lbs. or in which organized and systematic smuggling was noticed :—

(1) In December 1898, a Police Patel of Devadh in the Chhota-Udepur State under the Rewa Kántha Agency saw some six Mahomedans with five bullock carts encamped near his village. His suspicions being aroused, he with the aid of some villagers kept a sharp watch over their movements. During the night the men brought five bags of opium from the bed of the nála (rivulet) where the opium was buried, and secreted one bag in each cart under grass. They then prepared to start, but were prevented from doing so by the villagers. The smugglers, who were armed with sticks, showed fight, but the villagers proved equal to the occasion and made a firm stand using their bows and arrows. The smugglers gave in, and were eventually handed over to the Police, who found 128 lbs. 32 tolas of opium. The offenders were convicted and sentenced to suffer eight months' rigorous imprisonment each. The opium was brought from Central India and was to have been disposed of in the Broach District. A reward of Rs. 500 was awarded to the captors.

(2) In January 1899, three men dressed as "Sadhus" (ascetics) came into Ahmedabad, apparently from Márwár, carrying with them eight bottles of holy water with the alleged intention of selling it at Dákor. The bottles were made of tin with glass necks. The necks were filled with water, while the bodies of the bottles were packed with opium. Mr. Ajitrai Shivdas, Abkári Inspector of Ahmedabad, acting on information, kept a sharp look-out for the Sadhus, and effected a skilful capture of the smugglers with 40 lbs. 10 tolas of opium in their possession. All three were put on their trial, with the result that one was sentenced to suffer six months' rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 100, while the other two were sentenced to undergo four months' rigorous imprisonment each. A reward of Rs. 200 was granted by the trying Magistrate to the Abkári Inspector, but as the Inspector had paid a large amount to his informers, the Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Collector, sanctioned a special reward of Rs. 200.

(3) In May 1899, the Chief Constable of Rádhanpur under the Pálanpur Superintendency effected a clever seizure of 130 lbs. 29 tolas of opium. He happened to be on his official tour in the limits of Aranjansar when he met five men dressed like "Sadhus" (ascetics) with two bags on their shoulders, one containing opium and the other utensils. The men on being questioned replied that they came from Márwár and were proceeding to Dwárka. The Chief Constable's suspicions were roused, and he ordered his mounted orderly to search the men, with the result that the quantity of opium above-named was found. The smugglers were convicted and sentenced to suffer one year's rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 150 each. A reward amounting to Rs. 201 was awarded in this case.

(4) In June 1899, the Superintendent of Police of the Pálanpur State having reason to believe that people from Kutch and Káthiáwár were passing through the limits of the State with opium, warned his subordinates to be on a look-out for such persons, and after some time succeeded in arresting 22 smugglers with 575 lbs. 12½ tolas of opium. They were tried and sentenced to undergo one year's rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 100 each. A reward of Rs. 1,304 was awarded to the captors.

(5) In July 1899, a seizure of 78 lbs. of opium was effected by the Police Inspector of the Dhrángadra State under the Káthiáwár Agency. The smugglers were eight in number. They had brought opium from different places in Káthiáwár. Seven of them were convicted and sentenced to suffer 10 months' rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 50 each, while one was acquitted owing to want of evidence.

OFFENCES.

The Police Inspector and the informers were awarded half the sale-proceeds of opium as reward.

CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENCES.
British Districts.

71. The following is an abstract of the particulars of the opium cases detected in British districts of the Bombay Presidency in the year under report as compared with the previous year :—

Nature of Offence.	Number of cases brought up.	Number of persons tried.	Number of persons discharged or acquitted.	Number of persons convicted.	Nature and Amount of Punishment awarded.					
					Rigorous imprisonment.	Simple imprisonment.	Fines.			
							Total Amount adjudged.	Amount recovered.	Amount not recovered.	Imprisonment awarded in default of payment.
1897-98.					Days.	Days.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Days.
Illegal cultivation of Poppy ..	2	4	..	4	..	..	30 0 0	30 0 0	....	..
Do. manufacture of Opium ..	1	1	1	..	..	..	....	....	....	..
Do. possession of Opium ..	159	183	24	159	1,838	107	4,741 0 0	3,376 0 0	1,365 0 0	730
Do. transport of Opium ..	1	1	..	1	..	..	50 0 0	....	50 0 0	15
Do. import of Opium ..	61	64	3	61	886	84	1,089 0 0	639 13 3	449 2 9	231
Do. export of Opium ..	2	2	..	2	..	..	8 0 0	8 0 0	....	..
Do. sale of Opium	9	9	1	8	120	..	125 0 0	51 2 7	73 13 5	6
Breach of condition of License .	1	1	..	1	..	..	25 0 0	25 0 0	....	..
Total ..	236	265	29	236	2,844	191	6,068 0 0	4,129 15 10	1,938 0 2	1,041
1898-99.										
Illegal cultivation of Poppy ..	1	1	..	1	..	..	25 0 0	25 0 0	....	..
Do. manufacture of Opium .	3	3	..	3	43	..	140 0 0	0 3 11	139 12 1	39
Do. possession of Opium ..	167	182	26	156	2,068	46	5,426 0 0	3,886 0 0	1,540 0 0	1,309
Do. transport of Opium .	3	3	.	3	..	..	25 0 0	25 0 0	....	..
Do. import of Opium ..	48	49	3	46	400	..	912 8 0	687 8 0	225 0 0	230
Do. export of Opium ..	1	1	..	1	..	..	250 0 0	....	250 0 0	150
Do. sale of Opium	8	8	2	6	24	..	110 0 0	110 0 0	....	..
Breach of condition of License .	2	2	..	2	..	..	20 0 0	20 0 0	....	..
Total ..	233	249	31	218	2,535	46	6,908 8 0	4,753 11 11	2,154 12 1	1,728

Native States.

72. The following is an abstract of similar particulars regarding Native State territory :—

Nature of Offence.	Number of cases brought up.	Number of persons tried.	Number of persons discharged or acquitted.	Number of persons convicted.	Nature and Amount of Punishment awarded.					
					Rigorous imprisonment.	Simple imprisonment.	Fines.			
							Total Amount adjudged.	Amount recovered.	Amount not recovered.	Imprisonment awarded in default of payment.
1897-98.					Days.	Days.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Days.
Illegal cultivation of Poppy .	1	4	..	4	28	..	20 0 0	20 0 0	....	..
Do. possession of Opium ..	115	124	11	113	1,400	99	2,324 4 0	1,504 4 0	820 0 0	561
Do. import of Opium ..	26	37	4	33	1,386	10	750 9 6	405 9 6	345 0 0	222
Do. sale of Opium	1	6	..	6	150	..	405 0 0	205 0 0	200 0 0	45
Total ..	143	171	15	156	2,964	109	3,499 13 6	2,134 13 6	1,365 0 0	828
1898-99.										
Illegal manufacture of Opium .	1	1	..	1	15	..	10 0 0	10 0 0	....	..
Do. possession of Opium ..	121	193	21	172	16,807	62	6,772 12 7½	1,648 1 6	5,124 11 1½	3,284
Do. import of Opium ..	9	14	..	14	1,470	2	100 0 0	100 0 0	....	..
Do. export of Opium ..	1	1	..	1	60	..	20 0 0	20 0 0	....	..
Do. sale of Opium	1	1	..	1	..	..	25 0 0	25 0 0	....	..
Breach of condition of License.	2	2	1	1	..	..	50 0 0	50 0 0	....	..
Total ..	135	212	22	190	18,352	64	6,977 12 7½	1,853 1 6	5,124 11 1½	3,284

73. The Collector, Mr. Morison, continued to take energetic interest in opium administration throughout the year and with most satisfactory results, and the good work done by Mr. Rustom Pestanji Jehangir deserves

special recognition. Although Government have not yet finally sanctioned the new Opium Preventive Service, creditable success has been achieved by the temporary establishment already employed, and in this connection Mr. Rustom brings to notice the praiseworthy conduct of Messrs. Pherozshah Pallonji, Sheriar Jehangirsha and Bapuji Kursedji.

Messrs. J. D. Ghandy, Narimán, and Joseph Dias of the Bombay Opium Department have also worked well, and Mr. Inspector H. Ballantine of the B. B. & C. I. Railway Police has rendered specially good service to the Department. The Bombay farmer, Mr. Damji, has helped the Preventive and Detective Department with his usual liberality and loyalty, and Mr. Aderji M. Dalal of Khándesh and Sardár Umar Jamal of Poona have also rendered valuable assistance.

There can be little doubt that had the year been a normal one, the effect of the successful working of the Preventive Establishment would have shown itself more markedly in the increase of licit sales.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

J. POLLEN,
Acting Commissioner of Customs,
Salt, Opium and A'bkári.

B 1798—7

Statement showing the number of Chests imported under Passes into Bombay, and the amount of Duty realized and finally brought to account, compared with the number of Chests for which Passes were granted and the Duty secured at the Agencies in each of the ten Revenue years from 1889-90 to 1898-99.

Years.	Number of Chests actually imported into Bombay in each year.				Number of Chests for which Passes were granted and Duty realized in current year, but which were lost on the road.	Number of Chests for which Passes were granted and Duty realized in current year, but which did not arrive during the year.	Total number of Chests for which Duty was realized and credited in current year. Total of Columns 3, 4, 6, and 7.	Rate of Duty per Chest.	Amount of Duty realized and brought to account.	Number of Chests for which Passes were granted, but Duty not realized and Chests not arrived during the year.	Amount of Duty outstanding on Chests in Column 11.	Total number of Chests for which Passes were granted during current year, and the amount of Duty due thereon.		REMARKS.
	Under Passes granted in previous year.		Under Passes granted during current year.	Total number of Chests imported. Aggregate of Columns 2, 3, and 4.								Chests—Total of Columns 4, 6, 7 and 11.	Duty—Total of Columns 10 and 12, less Duty on Chests in Column 3.	
	Duty having been realized and credited in that year.	Duty being realized in current year.												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
							Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.			
1889-90 ...	...	...	21	28,814½	28,835½	...	22½	2,342 26,208½ 307½	600 650 700	1,86,56,125	7½	5,250	28,844½	1,86,47,875
1890-91 ...	22½	7½	30,049½	30,079½	...	10	29,774½ 292½	600 700	1,80,69,450	26½	17,400	30,086	1,80,81,600	
1891-92 ...	10	26½	30,812	30,848½	...	...	30,497 341½	600 700	1,85,37,250	297½	1,78,650	31,109½	1,86,98,500	
1892-93 ...	...	297½	26,358	26,655½	...	...	26,472½ 183	600 700	1,60,11,600	708½	4,25,700	27,066½	1,62,58,650	
1893-94 ...	...	708½	32,143½	32,852	...	1,506	34,131 226 1	600 700 725	2,06,37,525	1,069	6,41,400	34,718½	2,08,53,225	
1894-95 ...	1,506	1,069	28,793½	31,368½	...	58	13,792½ 15,843 285	600 650 700	1,87,72,950	783	5,09,600	29,634½	1,86,41,150	
1895-96 ...	58	783	22,777	23,618	1	170½	170½ 23,071½ 489½	600 650 700	1,54,41,425	701½	4,20,900	23,650	1,53,52,725	
1896-97 ...	170½	701½	22,748½	23,620½	...	607½	23,720½ 337 363	600 700 700	1,44,68,200	118½	71,200	23,474½	1,41,18,500	
1897-98 ...	607½	118½	18,030½	18,756½	...	107½	2,907 14,986½	600 500	94,91,550	27	14,200	18,165	94,34,550	
1898-99 ...	107½	27	30,632	30,766½	...	58½	389½ 30,328	700 500	1,54,36,650	41	20,700	30,731½	1,54,43,150	

J. POLLEN,
Acting Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium and Abkári.

Annual Reports.

Report on the administration of the Opium Department of the Bombay Presidency for the revenue year 1898-99.

No. 2449.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 14th April 1900.

Letter from the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium and A'bkári, No. 2203, dated 19th December 1899—Submitting the report on the administration of the Opium Department of the Bombay Presidency for the revenue year 1898-99 ending 31st July 1899.

RESOLUTION.—The total number of chests of opium weighed and passed at the agency scales for transmission to various parts of India, was 31,859½, as compared with 19,292½ in the previous year. The following table shows the figures for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of chests.
1894-95	30,832½
1895-96	24,898½
1896-97	24,642
1897-98	19,292½
1898-99	31,859½

The great majority of these chests were transmitted to Bombay for export to China, the demand from which was greatly stimulated by the partial failure of the opium crop in that country. The number of chests, both duty paid and duty free, exported from the Málva Agencies increased by 12,546½. As in previous years, there was an entire absence of exports from the Ajmere Agency.

2. As against 18,898 in the preceding year, 30,888 actually reached the Presidency, out of which number 30,377 chests were lodged in the Bombay Opium Warehouse. Of the remaining chests, 121½ were imported free of duty by Native States, and 389½ were received on payment of duty by farmers both in Native States and in British Territory. Removals from the warehouse totalled to 31,063½ chests as against 17,693½ in the previous year. The book balance on 31st July 1899 was 774½ chests, while the balance of opium actually in hand was 748½ chests. This percentage of deficiency is, as the Commissioner points out, smaller—a fact which may be regarded as satisfactory, but Government trust that there will be no relaxation of the vigilance at present directed against theft from the warehouse. With reference to the concluding sentence of paragraph 23 of his report, the Commissioner should be informed that the Government of India were duly acquainted with Mr. Kennedy's recommendation that more accurate and detailed weighments at the Málva scales should be insisted on, but that that Government have not passed any special orders on the subject.

3. The exports of opium to China during the last five years are compared in the subjoined table:—

Year.	Number of chests.
1894-95	29,288
1895-96	21,693
1896-97	22,289½
1897-98	16,676
1898-99	29,891

The increase in exports is clearly attributable to the above noted failure of the crop in China and the reduction of the export duty; but the Commissioner opines that the area under poppy cultivation in China is unlikely to suffer

any permanent diminution, and that with a fair harvest in that country, the export trade will again decline.

4. The total quantity of opium (excluding stock in hand) placed on sale for local consumption in the Presidency is compared with that of the year previous in the following table :—

	British Districts.		Native States.	
	1897-98.	1898-99.	1897-98.	1898-99.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Issued from Government Depôts	29,140	27,527	27,846	23,665
Imported direct from Málva { Free ...	...	...	19,259	16,538
Imported direct from Málva { On payment.	27,699	25,453	21,710	27,562
Purchased by licensees in the Bombay market	61,522	63,224	25,181	22,321
Total ...	1,18,361	1,16,204	93,996	90,086

The average cost price of the opium bought by Government was 9-13-6 as compared with the previous year's figure of 10-0-4; while the net profit on transactions at the Government depôts rose by Rs. 3,101.

5. A variety of reasons are assigned for the decrease of 3,149 lbs. in the total quantity of opium actually passed into consumption. Trade depression consequent upon previous scarcity and the presence of plague possibly contribute to the decline which, however, is scarcely large enough to be accounted for by any specific cause. Some of the districts, *e.g.*, Poona, Násik and Satára where plague was severest show an actual increase. In two districts the decrease is attributed to smuggling. Government have every hope that the new special preventive service will effect the improvement expected of it, and learn with satisfaction that a good start has been made in the Kaira District. The increase in the sales in Ahmedabad and Khándesh, however, during the year of report cannot possibly be attributed to that agency which did not begin its operations till after the close of the year. The increase in Khándesh, indeed, which is hardly 2 per cent. as compared with the year previous, is hardly worth mentioning. It would have been interesting to have had some explanation of the very considerable decrease in the District of Ahmednagar, where the occurrence of smuggling from the Nizam's territory is not improbable. The bulk of the Commissioner's proposals for strengthening the preventive service have recently been approved by Government.

6. Native States were supplied with 90,086 lbs. of opium as against 93,996 lbs. in 1897-98 and 97,350 lbs. in 1896-97. With the exception of sales in Pálanpur and Cambay, there was a general decline in sales in Native States attributed generally to migration or impoverishment of the consuming population. In Mahi Kántha, however, the decline is a gratifying result of the action taken by the Political Agent in respect of the irregular system noted in the review of the previous year. The extraordinary decrease in the quantity of opium supplied to the State of Miraj (Senior) deserves some explanation. If the supply is to be taken, as suggested by the Commissioner, to be a gauge of consumption, then the consumption in that State has fallen off by nearly 50 per cent. as compared with the average of the three years ending 1895-96, a scarcely credible fact. The facts stated by the Commissioner in paragraph 33 of his review doubtless indicate that some slight reduction has been made in the enormous stocks of opium kept by the Baroda Darbár. A great deal more, however, will have to be done before matters in that State

will be on a satisfactory footing. At the end of the year of report the stock amounted to about three and a half times that remaining in the warehouses of the Bombay Government. It is true that the Darbár has since disposed of some 297 chests to China. But if, as the Commissioner has stated, the Baroda opium is not received in that country with favour the export cannot possibly develop at a rate sufficient to clear off the stocks. It is also perhaps open to question whether the reduction in the area of cultivation is as great as the figures seem to indicate. For if these figures and those of the quantity of juice purchased are correct, the State in the year of report purchased nearly 19 lbs. of juice for each acre cultivated with poppy, whereas in the three years ending 1895-96 only 12 lbs. of juice were purchased to each acre cultivated. Again, although the quantity of opium manufactured shows a gratifying decrease, it is still nearly one-third more than is required for sale to retail dealers. It is difficult to conceive what useful object can be served by the continued manufacture of stock in excess of requirements for home consumption, when the profitable export of opium is likely to be to the Baroda not less than to the British Government a matter of increasing difficulty.

7. A comparison of the revenue derived from Export duty and Excise during the years 1897-98 and 1898-99 is subjoined—

	1897-98.	1898-99.
	Rs.	Rs.
Opium duty	87,33,344	1,46,35,436
Excise	9,49,056	9,41,559

The explanation of the increase in receipts under export duty must be found in the increase in the China trade. The decrease in excise is less noticeable than in the preceding year and corresponds generally with a decrease of consumption in the major portion of the Presidency.

8. The total number of cases detected in British districts decreased by three while the convictions obtained remained at last year's figure. There was a decrease of 86 lbs. in the quantity of contraband opium seized. It is observed that in the British districts of Ahmedabad and Kaira, in the latter at least of which smuggling is admitted to have been prevalent, the number of cases and convictions diminished considerably. In the Panch Mahâls on the other hand the figures show an increase. It is difficult, in the absence of any expression of opinion by the Commissioner, to judge whether any inference should be drawn from these figures as to the efficiency or the reverse of the existing detective agency. In Native States, however, some indisputably smart work was performed, for though cases detected show a decrease of 8, the total quantity of opium seized increased by 837 lbs. in consequence of heavy captures skilfully effected in the Pálanpur and Rewa Kántha States.

9. Government have no reason to suppose that the general administration of the Department was otherwise than satisfactory : but there are no evidences yet of that decline in illicit opium traffic, which Government hope to see as the result of the efforts of the new Preventive establishments under the guidance of the Commissioner.

H. S. LAWRENCE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium and A'bkári,

[P. T. O.

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The Commissioner in Sind,
The Commissioners of Divisions,
The Collector and Political Agent, Kaira,
The Collector and Political Agent, Thána,
The Collector and Political Agent, Kolába,
The Collector and Political Agent, Sholápur,
The Collector and Political Agent, Sátára,
The Collector and Political Agent, Dhárwár,
All other Collectors, including the Collectors and Deputy Commissioners in Sind,
The Collector of Land Revenue, Customs and Opium, Bombay,
The Collector of Customs and Salt Revenue in Sind,
The Collector of Salt Revenue, Bombay,
The Accountant General,
The Political Agent, Káthiáwár,
The Political Agent, Cutch,
The Political Agent, Rewa Kántha,
The Political Agent, Mahi Kántha,
The Political Agent, Kolhápur and Southern Marátha Country,
The Political Superintendent, Pálanpur,
The Political Superintendent, Sávantvádi,
The Agent to His Excellency the Governor at Surat,
The Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor,
The Political Department of the Secretariat,
The Public Works Department of the Secretariat,
Railway.

} With copies of the Report.

The Agent to the Governor General at Baroda,
The Government of India.

} By letter.

The Secretary of State for India (by despatch).

No. of 1900.

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